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School Committee Minutes 09/26/2013

Approved by the Arlington School Committee October 24, 2013

*Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday September 26, 2013
6:30 p.m.*

*School Committee Room
Arlington High School
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: Mr. Judson Pierce, Mr. William Hayner, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, and Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Siobhan Foley, AEA Representative and Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Director of Special Education, AAA Representative and Student Representative

Mr. Thielman arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Ms. Foley arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Judson Pierce held a moment of silence for longtime beloved educator Barbara Weber, Arlington Public Schools teacher who passed away, on September 16, 2013.

Introduction of New Administration

Dr. Bodie introduced the new Arlington High School Principal, Matthew Janger and Athletic Director, Melissa Dlugolecki. Both Mr. Janger and Ms. Dlugolecki said they have transitioned well and were off to a great start of the school year, meeting with faculty, parents, coaches and students, listening and discussing needs, ideas and goals. Some of the topics they touched on included, a new building for the high school, technology needs, open campus, as well as 10 to 20 year needs of high school classrooms for students. Ms. Dlugolecki was eager to report on the new AHS Sports Website, parent and athletic meeting held at AHS, as well as the set-up of the Captains Counsel, which meets weekly in the morning before school. Other updates included community service programs for team members and having the team captains accountable for posting scores to the website.

Public Participation

None

New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc. (NEASC) Letter

Dr. Bodie provided the letter received from NEASC dated September 11, 2013 on the evaluation report on the visit to Arlington High School last year. The letter stated that the NEASC Committee voted to award Arlington High School continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The report and letter are posted to

our website for viewing. The major concerns that the committee and the administration discussed were mostly in the building needs. This started the discussion to commence dialog on building a new high school. It was agreed by most that the community would need to be involved to start looking into funds, sending the Statement of Interest to MSBA and having a Feasibility Study done, as was done in the past for the build of the Thompson School. Dr. Bodie did say the process can take a while and that both the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen would need to sign off on the plans to get it all started.

MCAS Highlights and Accountability Reports

Superintendent Bodie said that MCAS reports would be delivered to parents/guardians by the end of next week or sooner. The Accountability Reports can be found on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education websites. The reports have changed and the website does provide a video to learn more about them. Dr. Chesson provided a brief overview on the Accountability Data. Dr. Bodie noted due to a decoding error on the access test at Ottoson, it was labeled a Level 3 school, instead of level 2. Dr. Bodie read the highlights of the MCAS data:

- Hardy Elementary School is first out of 879 schools in Grade 5 English Language Arts (ELA)
- Bishop Elementary School is 5 out of 879 schools in Grade 5 ELA. Bishop students were taught by Bishop and Thompson teachers in blended classes with Thompson students.
- Brackett Elementary School is 13 out of 955 schools in Grade 3 ELA putting it in the top 1%; Grade 5 ELA is in the top 2%, at 17 out of 879 schools
- Grade 5 in ALL~Arlington elementary schools scored in the top 12% in Science
- Hardy is 3 out of 879 schools
- Brackett is 11 out of 879 schools
- Bishop is 15 out of 879 schools
- Peirce is 37 out of 879 schools
- Thompson Elementary School Grade 3 students, who was taught in blended classes at Stratton, Bishop, and Hardy schools, scored in the top 10% in both ELA and Math
- Stratton Grade 5 is in the top 7% in ELA, at 62 out of 879 schools
- Bishop Grade 3 is in the top 6% in ELA; Grade 4 is in the top 9% in ELA
- Hardy Grade 3 is in the top 4% in ELA at 41 out of 955 schools
- Dallin Elementary School is in the top 10% in Grade 3 ELA and Math and Grade 4 Math
- Brackett Grade 3 is in the top 5% in Math; Grade 4 is in the top 7% in ELA and top 8% in Math
- Bishop, Brackett and Hardy all scored in the top 8% in Grade 5 Math
- Ottoson Middle School, all grades 6-8 scored in the top 18% in Math, which continues to be a special focus at the school
- Ottoson all grades 6-8 were in the top 16% in ELA
- Ottoson 8th Grade Science scored in the top 10%
- Arlington High School is in the top 20% in ELA; 21% in Math; and, 17% in Science
- AHS passing rate for Grade 10 ELA is 99%; Math, 98%; Science, 99%

Thompson School

Superintendent Bodie and Ms. Siobhan Foley spoke of the wonderful Library Dedication and Ribbon Cutting for the Bill Shea Library held on Sunday, September 29, 2013.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bodie spoke how teachers and administrations worked on Goal settings during early release. The

Superintendent's Annual Educator Plan includes the District Goals, Key Actions, Benchmarks, Standards, and the District Determined Measures. Mr. Thielman noted no motion was needed to have the Superintendent provide evidence of her goals, but it was suggested that the Goals be labeled on the agenda when each presentation is discussed at School Committee meetings. Mr. Hayner suggested setting up a small group, as policy notes, to study the process and evidences required for the Superintendent Evaluation.

Mr. Pierce moved to organized a Special Study Group Subcommittee to work with Superintendent Kathleen Bodie on the process and evidence required for the Superintendent Evaluation Education Plan, seconded by Mr. Hayner.
Voted: 7-0

Mr. Pierce appointed Ms. Heigham, Mr. Schlichtman and Ms. Starks to the Special Study group.

Dr. Allison-Ampe received calls from parents asking to move the Text Alert testing to sometime in the evening when children are not in school because parents were worried when they saw the number from Town of Arlington.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Pierce moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: *Approval of Warrant 14-35 Dated 9/12/2013 Total Warrant Amount \$528,321.97 and Approval of draft minutes: none, seconded by Mr. Hayner.
Voted: 7-0

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Thielman read the following policies for a first read:

- *Educator Evaluation GCO*
- *Deletion of Evaluation of Professional Staff GCO-R*
- *Deletion of Evaluation of Professional Staff Teachers GCO-I-R*
- *Evaluation of Teachers and Administrators GCO-2-R to be GCO-R*
- *School Committee Liaisons To Individual Schools BEDB*

Mr. Pierce said he was sending the last policy to all the PTO's too.

Budget - Ms. Starks said the next Budget Subcommittee will be meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. and will discuss the Budget timeline for next year.

Ms. Starks moved to add and change Regular School Committee meetings for Thursday, November 14 & 21, 2013 and Thursday, December 12 & 19, 2013, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Voted: 7-0

Community Relations – Ms. Heigham will hold a meeting in October.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability – Dr. Allison-Ampe had nothing to report.

Facilities – Mr. Hayner would like to hold a meeting before the next School Committee meeting.

Chair – The Budget Revenue Task Force will meet on Monday, October 7th in the Selectmen's Room.

Secretary's Report

Ms. Starks reported on the following correspondence received, for SC 9/26/2013 and for 9/12/2013:

- *Invitation to the Bill Shea Library Memorial Dedication in Thompson school 2-4 on Sunday, September 29.*
- *Copy of letter from NEASC granting accreditation to AHS but putting it on warning for the facilities.*
- *Copy of press release regarding APS accountability report.*
- *Copy of MCAS data for APS*
- *Copy of letter sent to parents from district attorney regarding truancy.*
- *Copy of the budget subcommittee minutes from 9/18/2013*
- *Save the date invitation to the Metco Directors' Association Conference being held on Friday, December 6, 2013 at the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood*
- *Education client alert from Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane about changes to the anti-bullying law*
- *Email from Dr. Bodie highlighting MCAS results in the district*
- *Save the date card for AYCC's fundraiser at Town Hall on Friday, October 18, 2013*
- *Letter from Dr. Bodie requesting that Ms. Johnson's seat on the permanent town building committee be filled instead by the Fire Chief.*
- *Letter from the MLK Jr. Birthday Observance Committee on a donation of \$300 to cover graduate credits for courses for Rebecca Walsh and John DiTomosso.*
- *Invitation to the farewell reception for Juliana Rice to be held on Thursday, September 19 at 5 pm*
- *Notice of the death of Robert Lynch, past principal of the Dallin School.*
- *Education Alert from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane about bullying and special education students*
- *July 2013 edition of the Issues in School Governance from MASC*
- *The September 2013 edition of the MASC Bulletin*
- *Financial information from EDCO*

Executive Session

Mr. Pierce moved to enter Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: unanimous

Adjourn

Mr. Pierce moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee/css*